

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01 SWF-02

DRC-01 /173 W

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R 261600Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7689

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, XL, HA

SUBJECT: TRADE INFORMATION FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH MALMGREN

REF: (A) STATE 58238, (B) P-AU-P A-25

1. HAITIAN OBJECTIVES FOR MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL BEING FORMULATED BY WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, KEY PEOPLE ARE OUT OF THE COUNTRY THIS WEEK. AS SOON AS THEY RETURN, EMBASSY WILL TRY TO DEVELOP FURTHER INFORMATION ON HAITIAN VIEWS FOR SUBMISSION TO DEPARTMENT.

2. INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT MOMENT FOLLOWS IN ACCORDANCE WITH FORMAT OF REFTEL:

A. TRADE ISSUES OF INTEREST TO US:

(1) HAITI PLANS PARTICIPATE IN MTN.

(2) HAITI IS MEMBER OF GATT.

(3) ALTHOUGH GOH MAY ADMIT THAT THEORETICALLY IT SHOULD OFFER SOME TRADE CONCESSIONS, IT SEES NO OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE FULL RECIPROCITY AND WILL ATTEMPT TO LIMIT ANY RECIPROCAL

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CONCESSIONS TO MINIMUM.

(4) PRODUCTS ON WHICH HAITI PLANS REQUEST TARIFF CONCESSIONS ARE LISTED IN REF (B).

(5) EMBASSY HAS NO RECORD OF OFFICIAL COMPLAINTS BY GOH CITING US NONTARIFF TRADE BARRIERS. HOWEVER, GOH HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT CARVED MAHOGANY STATUES AND PLAQUES HAVE FREQUENTLY BEEN CLASSIFIED BY U.S. CUSTOMS AS "ARTICLES OF WOOD", TSUS 207.00, PAYING DUTY OF EIGHT PERCENT INSTEAD OF "ORIGINAL WORKS OF ART", TSUS 765.15, DUTY FREE.

(6) NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE RE HAITIAN POSITION ON SAFE-GUARDS, COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS OR OTHER LISTED ISSUES. B. TRADE ISSUES VIS-A-VIS OTHER COUNTRIES. AS ONE OF FEW COUNTRIES NOT A MEMBER OF ANY BLOC OR PREFERENTIAL TRADE AREA, AS WELL AS ONE OF

25 LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, HAITI LIKELY TO STRESS NEED FOR PREFERENCES AND MAY, AS WELL, SUGGEST THAT COUNTRIES SUCH AS BRAZIL AND

MEXICO SHOULD PROVIDE PREFERENCES. HAITI IS STILL CONSIDERING WHETHER OR NOT TO DEVELOP JOINT APPROACH WITH OTHER LA COUNTRIES.

3. DECISIONS ON TRADE POLICY AND NEGOTIATION PROBLEMS WILL BE MADE BY HAITIAN SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY SERGE FOURCAND, AIDED TO SOME EXTENT BY UNDER SECRETARY HENRI BAYARD. KEY POSITIONS WILL REQUIRE APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT DUVALIER. LEADING WORKING LEVEL OFFICIAL

IS ORCENA GERVAIS, WHO WORKS PART TIME FOR DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND WHO HAS ATTENDED TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS IN PAST. ISHAM

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